

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for forming an article from a blank of sheet metal ~~wherein the blank has marginal edge portions, the apparatus comprising:~~
 a first die member having a cavity formed therein;
 means for producing a magnetic field disposed at least adjacent the cavity in said ~~the first~~ die member for selectively restraining movement of the marginal edge portions of the blank of sheet metal;
 a second die member mounted for relative reciprocal movement toward and away ~~from the cavity formed in respect of said the~~ first die member;
 means for imparting ~~selective~~ relative reciprocal movement ~~of between the first die member and said the second die member to deform the blank of sheet metal within the cavity of the first die member;~~ and
 control means for ~~selectively energizing said means for producing a~~ varying the magnetic field ~~to selectively restrain movement of the marginal edge portions of the blank of sheet metal during the forming of the article during the deformation of the blank of sheet metal.~~
2. (currently amended) The invention defined in Claim 1 wherein said the means for producing a magnetic field includes a plurality of electromagnets.
3. (currently amended) The invention defined in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2 wherein said the cavity includes an open end.
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The invention defined in ~~Claim 5~~ Claim 3 wherein ~~said the~~ electromagnets are disposed in spaced relation about the open end of ~~said the~~ cavity.

7. (currently amended) The invention defined in ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 2 wherein ~~said the~~ control means includes a microprocessor for controlling the strength of the magnetic field produced by ~~said the~~ electromagnets.

8. (currently amended) The invention defined in Claim 7 wherein ~~said the~~ control means includes a source of power coupled to ~~said the~~ electromagnets through ~~said the~~ microprocessor.

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) Method for forming an article from a blank of sheet metal including the steps of:

providing a first die member having a cavity formed therein;

disposing a plurality of electromagnets spaced ~~relation~~ about the cavity in said the first die member for restraining movement of the blank of sheet metal;

positioning a blank of sheet metal having marginal edge portions over the cavity of said the first die member;

providing a second die member mounted for relative reciprocal movement ~~toward and away from the cavity formed in~~ respect of said the first die member

providing means for imparting ~~selective~~ relative reciprocal movement ~~of between the first die member and said the second die member to deform the blank of sheet metal;~~ and

~~selectively energizing~~ varying the magnetic field of said the electromagnets to selectively restrain movement ~~of the marginal edge portions of the blank of sheet metal during the forming of the article~~ during the deformation of the blank of sheet metal.